



ILLINOIS CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION AUTHORITY

HOW THE STATE OF ILLINOIS ALLOCATES VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT (VOCA) FUNDS

1. Review the federal legislation and applicable guidelines

The Authority reviews the federal block grant legislation (including any amendments) and applicable guidelines to determine the following: (1) the focus of the federal block grant program, (2) the intent of Congress, and (3) the Authority's administrative responsibilities. Deadlines, matching requirements, and allowable program areas are analyzed by the Authority before any strategic steps are taken.

2. Identify the needs of Illinois crime victims

The Authority relies on public input, gathered from both written comments and focused panel discussions, along with crime statistics to identify the State's needs of crime victims. Notices are sent to criminal justice officials, victim service agencies and others across the State to request written comments on the priorities for the VOCA program. After written comments have been received, focused panel discussions on some of the key issues brought forward through the written comments are held. This process assists the Authority in obtaining specific information on the needs of crime victims including identifying underserved victims, and available resources for providing services.

3. Establish funding priorities

Next, the Authority selects priority program areas as the focus of the program. The selection of priority areas is driven by information gathered through the public hearing process and data analysis conducted by staff. As required by the Department of Justice, the Authority also develops *funding priority principles* to follow in allocating funds among the priority program areas. (Later on, these same principles are used in determining the local and state agencies that will receive funds.)

4. Finalize the application to the federal government

The Authority's Budget Committee is responsible for finalizing Illinois' application for federal VOCA funds. At this time, the Budget Committee also earmarks funds for each of the priority program areas selected. These funding priorities do not usually identify specific agencies for

federal funding. Rather, they specify how much money will be devoted to each of the major program areas selected by the Authority.

5. Identify implementing agencies

Once funds become available from the Office for Victims of Crime, the Authority begins to identify specific agencies to carry out the state plan. Several critical steps are involved:

- ◆ Calculating the resources needed to continue programs started in previous years that remain a priority in the new strategy;
- ◆ Ranking Illinois' counties according to areas of greatest need, based on a matrix that considers crime statistics;
- ◆ Identify state and local units of government and not-for-profit agencies eligible for funding, given the funding priorities, county rankings, resources already available to address the problem and the jurisdictions' ability to provide matching funds;
- ◆ Contacting identified agencies to assess interest in and ability to qualify for the funds; and
- ◆ Assisting interested agencies in developing programs that build on one or more of the general problems identified during the needs analysis process.

6. Designate specific programs, agencies and fund amounts

The Authority then designates funds for specific programs that address one or more of the major problems identified in the needs analysis process. These designations also identify the agencies to administer the programs and allocate funding amounts for each program. The amounts are based on the availability of funds and the overall cost of the program. Finally, the Authority enters into interagency agreements with the designated agencies, specifying the funds to be received and the terms under which the program is to be conducted.

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Date: January 20, 1997

To: Attorney General James Doyle

From: Susan Goodwin *SG*
Office of Crime Victim Services

Subject: Plan for 1997 Federal VOCA Grant

The following is a plan for the use of the 1997 Federal VOCA Victim Assistance Grant, as we have discussed. The plan is based on the assumption that current VOCA subgrants will continue for two more years and that current recipients will receive a two year contract, including a one-time 5% increase.

VOCA FFY 97 - \$7,602,000

FFY 97 Grant	7,602,000
5% Administrative Costs	-380,100
1% Training	<u>-76,020</u>
Available for Victim Services	7,145,880
Current Subgrant Base (FY 98)	2,286,000
Plus 5% cost increase	<u>114,000</u>
New Subgrant Base	2,400,000
Cost to Continue in FY 99	<u>2,400,000</u>
Total Subgrant Commitments	4,800,000
	<u>-4,800,000</u>
Remaining FFY 97 Grant Funds	2,345,880
New Victim Services Subgrants (FY 98)	900,000
Cost to Continue in FY 99	<u>900,000</u>
Balance Available for FY 2000	545,880

Some possible areas for use of the new victim services money include: sexual assault services in Milwaukee; police-based victim services; services for victims of juvenile crime; specialized victim/witness services; services for abused children; or services for developmentally disabled victims. These and other ideas will be discussed with the Crime Victims Council at their meeting this week. New subgrants for victim services would be awarded for the period July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1999.

Please contact me if you have any questions or suggestions.



State of Wyoming

GOVERNOR
Jim Geringer

Office of the Attorney General

CRIME VICTIMS COMPENSATION COMMISSION
VICTIMS ASSISTANCE BOARD
1700 Westland Road
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002
(307) 635-4050 - FAX (307) 638-7208

Getting Things Done

ATTORNEY GENERAL
William U. Hill

January 3, 1997

**CRIME VICTIM ASSISTANCE
GRANT PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT**Commission
Donna Mathews
GeologistJan Torres
Professor of Psychology
Western WY CollegeAmir Sanchez
Key Bank of GilletteBoard
Jon Furwood
District Attorney,
Laramie CountyMary Beth Wolff
Asst. District Attorney,
Laramie CountyJohn Lumley
Sheriff,
Hot Springs CountyStaff
Administrator
Sylvia BagdonasAdministrative Assistant
Vicki PowellClaims Specialists
Cheryl Hudson-Jolley
Charles SkinnerAccountant
Mona BloomAmericorp Program
Administrator
Michele John

The Wyoming Crime Victims Compensation Commission is pleased to issue a Request for Proposals soliciting crime victim/witness and victim assistance grant applications. The grant is expected to cover a 24 month period from July 1, 1997 to September 30, 1999.

The object of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) program is to help all crime victims have access to direct services from the initial crisis, through the investigation, during the trial and related court activities, and in post sentencing procedures. VOCA's purpose is to encourage more crime victims to cooperate with the criminal justice process. As articulated by VOCA, the federal grant program is to:

- * provide a minimal level of victim services throughout Wyoming
- * provide direct services to innocent victims of violent crime as soon as possible after the crime occurs
- * to improve the victim's willingness to cooperate with the criminal justice process
- * to restore the victim's faith in the criminal justice system

Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis. The distribution of grants is contingent upon the availability of federal funds. Organizations eligible to receive VOCA victim assistance funds include: family violence shelters, rape crisis centers, victim advocate agencies, prosecutor's offices, law enforcement agencies, mental health agencies, child treatment facilities, courts, correctional facilities, social service agencies, public housing agencies, religious organizations. The criteria for proposal submission and assessment are set forth in the grant packet. Proposals are due in the Crime Victims Compensation Commission office March 27, 1997. Postmarks will not be accepted.

The following funding priorities have been established for the 1997-1999 two-year grant cycle:

1. Priority will be given in the FY97 grant award process for increased funding support to existing VOCA funded projects. Existing VOCA funded agencies/organizations can request adjustments to their existing grant award through a continuation re-application process if the overall goal or mission has not changed. This request will not jeopardize existing contractual agreements.
2. Given the Commission's goal of providing accessible services to all victims of crime, service areas without a victim witness program will also be given priority.
3. Projects which provide a comprehensive range of services to victims and witnesses of all types of crime throughout the criminal justice system process within a county or service area will also be given priority.

4. Projects designed to be a court watch will be given funding priority. Trained volunteers work under the direction and supervision of a trained coordinator to make sure crime victims have the information needed to make informed decisions from the initial investigation, through the trial process, and post sentencing stages. Working closely with all victims of crime, they provide services such as information and referral, restitution, court advocacy, follow-up on court orders such as revenue recovery, and public awareness.

5. Direct services to child and juvenile victims of crime based on the VOCA goals will be given preference. Examples include, but are not limited to, court related child advocacy programs such as Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA Programs) and Children's Advocacy Centers. CASA volunteers are trained under the direction and supervision of a coordinator. As officers of the court, the CASA volunteers assure that the Judge has the information needed to make an informed decision and assure that the child is in a safe and permanent home as soon as feasible. For more information on CASA contact Pam Emerson at 672-0311, Fax: 674-4110. For information on Children's Advocacy Centers contact Becky Bailly at Cheyenne Office of Youth Alternatives, 637-6480 or Western Regional Children's Advocacy Center at 1-800-582-2203 or 719-543-0380.

6. Crime Victims Coalition/Resource Center to fill in the information, referral and service gap for all categories of crime victims. Direct services includes an 800 number which is accessible to all crime victims and informs them about their rights, responsibilities and the many services available to them, i.e. compensation, financial resources, local and national support services, victim advocacy groups, civil law suit alternatives, personal legal advocacy, and accessing rights such as restitution, protection from intimidation, etc.

Eligible applicants must: (1) Be operated by a public agency or private non-profit organization; (2) Must have a record of providing effective services to victims of crime and financial support from other sources (at least 20 percent of the total program cost, including cash or in-kind contributions); (3) If it is an Indian tribe or Native American organization on a reservation, it may be eligible for funding if it verifies a 5 percent minimum "match" of cash or in-kind; (4) Utilize volunteers; (5) Promote, within the community served, coordinated public and private efforts to aid crime victims and to ensure continuity of support; (6) Assist crime victims in seeking compensation benefits; and (7) Utilize funds for activities that directly benefit individual crime victims.

ELIGIBLE SERVICES INCLUDE

1. Crisis Hotline/911: Typically refers to the operation of a 24-hour telephone service, 7 days a week, which provides information and referral to victims and survivors.

2. Crisis Intervention/First Response: In person emotional support and guidance during the crisis experience.

3. Case Status: Refers to maintaining contact with the victim on the status of their case, time of court proceedings, plea negotiations, from investigation stage through sentencing.

4. Therapy/Counseling: Refers to individual short-term, follow-up emotional support, empathetic listening, and guidance for other-than-crisis reactions after the victimization for individuals, couples, and family members. This includes the evaluation of mental health needs, as well as the actual delivery of counseling.

5. Support Group: Refers to the coordination and provision of supportive group activities. This category includes self-help, peer, social support, drop-in groups, and community crisis intervention in a group setting.

- 6. Shelter/Safehouse:** Refers to offering short-term and long-term housing and related support services to victims and members of their family following a victimization.
- 7. Emergency Assistance and Referral:** Refers to locating basic survival needs for the victim or, in cases of homicide, and other violent crimes, for the immediate family as well. This may include emergency financial help, food, shelter, clothing, medicine, funeral costs, etc.
- 8. Personal Advocacy:** Refers to helping victims in securing rights and services not listed above such as child care, transportation, and private legal assistance.
- 9. Property Return:** Refers to support and assistance to victim and/or family in recovering property taken as evidence for investigative and prosecutorial purposes.
- 10. Emergency Legal Assistance:** Refers to filing temporary restraining orders, injunctions and other protective orders, elder abuse petitions, and child abuse petitions but does not include criminal prosecution or the employment of private attorneys for non-emergency purposes.
- 11. Assistance in Filing Compensation Claims:** Assisting the victim in completing their required forms and in gathering the needed documentation. It may also include follow up contact with the Victim Compensation agency on behalf of the victim.
- 12. Pre-Trial Notification:** Refers to maintaining contact with the victim concerning changes in status of defendant.
- 13. Orientation to Criminal Justice System:** Refers to the explanation of the criminal justice system, how it operates, and the victims rights and responsibilities with the system. This includes walking the victim through the court room and role playing the court scene.
- 14. Court Escort/Court Support:** Refers to accompanying the victim to court proceedings.
- 15. Follow-up Services:** Refers to explanation of the outcome of the trial, sentencing procedures, the Judgment and Sentence, and possibilities of the appeals or other legal action.
- 16. Notification of Family & Friends:** Includes contacting family and friends on behalf of victim, such as death notification, for protection in case of harassment, etc.
- 17. Creditor/Employer Intervention:** Refers to contacting employers, creditors, schools, etc., on behalf of victim to explain delay in payments and attendance.
- 18. Restitution Assistance:** Refers to assisting victim in gathering information needed for seeking restitution as well as follow up on payments after sentencing and pursuing civil judgment.
- 19. Victim Impact Statement Preparation:** Refers to explanation of victim impact reports and assistance in completing statements.
- 20. Intimidation Intervention - or protection services:** Refers to assisting the victims and their families when threatened with physical violence by the accused; arranging protective services/location.
- 21. Sentencing Input:** Assistance to the victim in preparing an oral or written statement at sentencing phase of the court procedure.
- 22. After-Trial Notification:** Refers to maintaining contact with the victim, after sentencing, about the status of defendant, changes in sentence condition, appeal, commutations, incarceration, location changes, offender release notification at the probation/parole and pardon stages.
- 24. Witness Notification:** Refers to notifying witnesses of court dates and case status.

For application kits contact Vicki Powell; for further information, contact Sylvia Bagdonas at 635-4050.



South Carolina Department of Public Safety

Office of Safety and Grants

MEMORANDUM

TO: Victim Service Providers

FROM: Barbara Jean (B.J.) Nelson
Project Administrator

DATE: November 25, 1996

SUBJECT: Federal Fiscal Year 1997 VOCA Victim Assistance Grant Program

The S.C. Department of Public Safety, Office of Safety and Grants, is pleased to provide you with the Federal Fiscal Year 1997 (FFY97) Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance Grant Program Application, and the Application Guidelines and Procedures. Please note that applications must be submitted by **January 20, 1997**.

Funding for FFY97 VOCA crime victim assistance grants to states is based on the penalties, fines, and forfeitures levied against criminals convicted of Federal crimes and deposited in the Crime Victims Fund (Fund) in the U.S. Treasury during FFY96. These deposits totalled \$528,941,562, which is considerably more than those of FFY95. Of the amount available for both victim compensation and assistance grants, 48.5 percent is allocated for victim assistance grants for distribution to the states. An additional \$161,403,243 will roll over from the crime victims compensation grant allocation to increase the FFY97 crime victim assistance grants total to \$397,059,000. Victim assistance awards are based upon a \$500,000 base award plus a proportionate share of the remaining funds computed from each State's percentage of the U.S. population. Consequently, it is anticipated that approximately \$5,592,000 million will be available to South Carolina for our crime victim assistance grant program.

The FFY97 allocation for VOCA victim assistance grants represents a significant increase over last year. Although this year's boost in funding sets a new record, historically annual deposits into the Fund can create difficulties for local victim assistance programs. For example, newly funded positions may not receive continuation funding in future years if the Fund decreases.

Continuation projects will be given funding priority. An estimated 50 percent of South Carolina's federal award will be allocated for continuation projects. Second priority will be given to projects which demonstrate a one-time funding need. Recognizing the fluctuations in the Fund since its origins, states and eligible recipients are encouraged this year to consider innovative funding initiatives. For example, proposals for projects requesting the acquisition of computers with high

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speed modems, state-of-the art computer network systems, victim notification systems, and other innovative funding initiatives to improve any aspect related to providing direct services to victims of violent crime will be considered. Additional and enhancement direct service projects will also be considered. Please feel free to call me at 803-896-8712 or Lynn Graham at 803-896-8188 to discuss any ideas you may have.

BJN

Enclosures